

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A reporting system for creating a report using a computer comprising:

a prompt object comprising a question to be asked of a user and at least one validation property, the prompt object being used to define some or every aspect of a report definition; and  
a resolution object for collecting an answer to a question of the prompt object for report creation;

wherein the resolution object is created and stored prior to the execution of a report.

2. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the resolution object is created by a third party outside of the reporting system.

3. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the stored resolution object is used to answer a prompt in a report instance during the execution of a report.

4. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein an answer from a stored resolution object is used to modify a default answer to a prompt in a report.

5. (Original) The system according to claim 3, wherein the resolution object causes the suppression of a prompt.

6. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the report is scheduled to execute at a future time.

7. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein a resolution object converts itself from XML into another format for the reporting system upon receipt by the reporting system from a third party source.

8- 20 (Cancelled).

21. (Currently Amended) A resolution object for use as part of a computerized reporting system for responding to prompt objects in a report definition, wherein the prompt object comprises a question to be asked of a user and at least one validation property, the prompt object defining some or every part of the report definition, the resolution object comprising, ~~the prompt object defining some or every part of the report definition~~:

a resolution object for collecting an answer to a question of the prompt object;

wherein the resolution object is created and stored prior to the execution of a report.

22. (Original) The resolution object of claim 21 which is created by a third party outside of the reporting system.

23. (Previously Presented) The resolution object of claim 21 comprising code for converting its format from XML into another format for the reporting system upon receipt by the reporting system from a third party source.